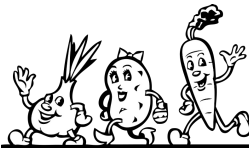


# Happiness Pony

## Can I give you a hug, or would that be weird?

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#### Melon Farmers

First of all: most melons are actually just big berries. So if you talk smack about berries, beware, you hate on their larger, more intimidating cousins as well. The most popular melon in America is the cantaloupe. According to the Economic Research Service of the USDA, China is the world's largest producer of cantaloupes, followed by Turkey. Americans—we are an intolerable third. The National Ag Statistics Service reported in 2010 that “the value of U.S. cantaloupe production continued to drop, falling to \$314.4 million. The value of U.S. honeydew production also continued to drop, sinking to \$49.6 million” (Ag Marketing Resource Center 2012). **We may be facing a melon meltdown** as the US cantaloupe bubble bursts and we are all left with worthless rotting piles of giant berries. In 2010 our annual per-person melon consumption was estimated at 26.1 pounds (ERS 2011). As Americans, I know we can eat more melons. This summer, help a destitute melon farmer—eat at least 27 pounds of US-grown melon. (*Shane Capra*)



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#### HAPPINESS PONY Income Statement April 2013

Revenue	
Donations from editors	\$47.50
Ad sales	\$0.00
Other donations	\$0.00
Expenses	
500 copies	\$42.50
Test copies	\$5.00
Net Income	
	\$0.00

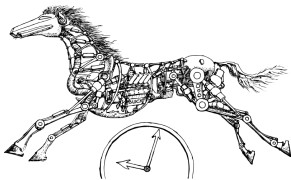
Happiness Pony is a free monthly newspaper published in Worcester, Massachusetts. This issue was edited by Shane Capra, Jen Burt, & Mike Benedetti. Masthead by Aiden Duffy from a 1775 issue of the *Massachusetts Spy*.  
editor@happinespony.com

### Rebels That Time Travel

Most 21st century humans became aware of the fugitive android Cindi Mayweather with the release of her pop star alter-ego Janelle Monáe's 2010 album, “Metropolis.” Mayweather had arrived in this timestream some years before and established “Monáe” as an African-American singer from Kansas City. At 27, “Monáe” has become a Grammy-winning artist and CoverGirl cosmetics spokeswoman. Her style is iconic, unmistakable, sexy, and queer. Her hair is frequently in a remarkable pompadour style dubbed “The Monáe.” She wears a tuxedo like other people wear jeans. “I bathe in it, I swim in it, and I could be buried in it.”

For all its conservatism, American popular music has often been a showcase for humanoid performers from non-traditional backgrounds, like Mayweather or the great Saturnian-American jazz musician Sun Ra. Whatever her original programming, ever since Mayweather's escape from her overlords in the year 2719, she has been creating her own identity, drawing from James Brown, Afrofuturism, Philip K. Dick, and Lauryn Hill. She integrates these on a deep level; rather than a pastiche, the “Monáe” performances are passionately authentic.

Why is Mayweather visiting us from the future? Her Q.U.E.E.N. video begins with this statement: “It's hard to stop rebels that time travel.” Mayweather is a rebel fighting on multiple fronts: queer sensibility, body positivity, class consciousness, racism, and the legitimacy of human+android love. Her chosen weapon: incredible music. “Janelle Monáe” continues the sci-fi tradition of android as subversive *other*, and is creating a canon that is empowering and danceable for outcasts from both 2719 and 2013. (*Jen Burt*)



### Sniff the Breeze

Sham el-Nessim is one of Egypt's national secular holidays and takes place the day after Coptic Orthodox Easter. “Sham el-Nessim” translates as “take in the zephyr,” and the holiday really must be enjoyed outside, where one can sniff the breeze.

Sham el-Nessim was first celebrated around the year 2700 BC, during the ancient Egyptian harvest season known as Shemu. To celebrate Spring and the return of life, Egyptians offered salted fish and onions to deities at the foot of the Great Pyramid.

Today, millions of Egyptians start the day not long after sunrise and take to the Nile, gardens, parks, or the countryside. They spend the day with their families, have large picnics, and sit and sniff the air. Many head north of Cairo where the zephyrs are most clear and beneficial for mind and body. Salted fish and green onions endure as holiday foods. If you're a child, your day may start with green onion rubbed on your forehead to ward off the evil eye. More recently, colored eggs are also included, a nice tip of the hat to fertility and the joy of small festive objects. (*Patricia Kirkpatrick*)

Thus, in a middle course between these heights and depths, they drifted through life rather than lived, the prey of aimless days and sterile memories, like wandering shadows that could have acquired substance only by consenting to root themselves in the solid earth of their distress.  
*Camus*



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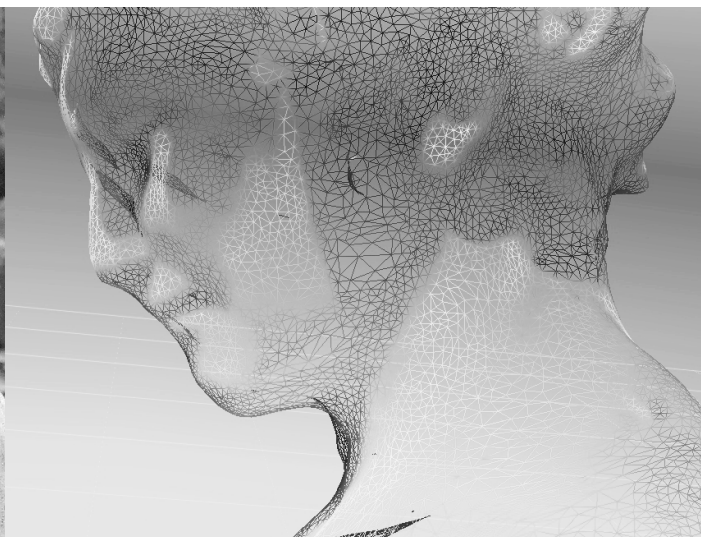




The "Boy with a Turtle" statue behind City Hall is no doubt Worcester's greatest symbol. It was crafted from bronze in 1912 by Sherry Fry, from an original design by Charles Y. Harvey.

*(See also "Phantom Critics Drive Him To Suicide," New York Times, January 29, 1912.)*

We have created a 3-dimensional digital model of the Turtle Boy that can be printed on a 3D printer. To download it, visit [landlubber.com/turtleboy](http://landlubber.com/turtleboy).



Digital Turtle Boy created by Mike Benedetti and Ben Cummings, using 123D Catch and Meshmixer. Many thanks to JAC for printing the first ABS plastic copy. Seah designed this page.